

REMARKS

A petition to extend the time for response by one (1) month is enclosed herewith.

A replacement Abstract of the Disclosure has been added in substitution of the originally filed Abstract of the Disclosure. Claims 23 and 36 have been amended. Claims 20 - 41 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 36 - 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Also, in the Office Action, claims 20 - 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zucholl DE 100 39 408 or Mourad WO 00/32864 or Graf et al GB 2 134 078 in combination with Davenet et al EP 1 088 927.

With respect to the rejection of claims 36 - 38 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, this rejection is now submitted to be obviated in view of the amendment of claim 36.

With respect to the rejection of claims 20 - 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments of claims 23 and 36 and the following amendments.

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention, as recited by, for example, independent claim 39, is directed to a household device for treating objects that includes a dosing device for dispensing a treatment agent, a first readable memory storing first data regarding one of a composition of the treatment agent and an active parameter for the treatment agent, a second readable memory storing second data regarding the dosing device, a reader in communication with the first readable memory and the second readable memory, and a program

controller that controls the treatment of the objects to optimize ambient conditions for dispensing the treatment agent from the dosing device at a predetermined time based upon the first data and the second data.

Conventional dishwashers and washing machines (household devices for treating objects) dispense a treatment agent merely upon a predetermined position within a treatment cycle and/or upon reaching a predetermined condition inside the device. These devices suffer from several problems. For instance, these devices do not ensure that conditions within the device are advantageous after the treatment agent is released. Therefore, the treatment agent may become inefficient for lack of appropriate conditions within the device. Further these devices are not capable of providing a dosage of the treatment agent which would provide for best efficiency of the agent. Rather, these devices typically release all of the agent or a predetermined amount of agent. Therefore, the dosage of the agent is not adapted to make the agent more efficient.

The present invention provides a household device for treating objects that includes a program controller that controls the treatment of the objects to optimize ambient conditions for dispensing the treatment agent from the dosing device at a predetermined time based upon the first data and the second data or a program controller that controls the time of dispensing of the treatment agent from the dosing device during the treatment of the objects to optimize the effectiveness of the treatment agent based upon the first data and the second data. In this manner, the household device improves the efficiency of the treatment agent.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including a household device for treating objects that includes: 1) operating a first part of an identification system to identify data of a second part

of the identification system that comprises information on a dosing device (claims 20, 23, 32, 34, and 36); 2) a program controller that controls the treatment of the objects to optimize ambient conditions for dispensing the treatment agent from the dosing device at a predetermined time based upon the first data and the second data (claim 39); and 3) a program controller that controls the time of dispensing of the treatment agent from the dosing device during the treatment of the objects to optimize the effectiveness of the treatment agent based upon the first data and the second data (claim 41). As explained above, these features are important for improving the efficiency of the treatment agent.

Looking at the applied references more closely, it can be seen that the DE'408 reference merely discloses a computer that controls the machine to provide an amount of product based upon product bar code reading. The DE' 408 reference does not teach or suggest data regarding the dosing device at all (claims 20, 23, 32, 34, and 36), controlling the treatment of objects to optimize the ambient conditions for dispensing the treatment agent at a predetermined time (claim 39) and also does not teach or suggest controlling the time of dispensing of the treatment agent to optimize the effectiveness of the treatment agent (claim 41).

The WO '864 reference merely discloses controlling a washing program according to the read information. The WO '864 reference does not teach or suggest data regarding the dosing device at all (claims 20, 23, 32, 34, and 36), controlling the treatment of objects to optimize the ambient conditions for dispensing the treatment agent at a predetermined time (claim 39) and also does not teach or suggest controlling the time of dispensing of the treatment agent to optimize the effectiveness of the treatment agent (claim 41).

The GB '078 reference merely discloses transferring data regarding the kind, metering quantity, and dose concentration from a bar code on the treatment

agent packaging to an electronic control. The GB '078 reference discloses calculating appropriate metering quantities based upon this data. (Page 2, lines 17-19, 41-43, and 56-57). The GB '078 reference does not teach or suggest: 1) a program controller that controls the treatment of the objects to optimize ambient conditions for dispensing the treatment agent from the dosing device at a predetermined time based upon the first data and the second data (claim 39); and 2) a program controller that controls the time of dispensing of the treatment agent from the dosing device during the treatment of the objects to optimize the effectiveness of the treatment agent based upon the first data and the second data (claim 41).

The EP '927 reference does not remedy the deficiencies of either of the DE '408 reference or the WO '864 reference. Instead, the EP '927 reference discloses a self-contained and portable dispensing device that detects and/or senses when the conditions are optimal and then releases the agent. The EP '927 reference very clearly does not teach or suggest data regarding the dosing device at all (claims 20, 23, 32, 34, and 36), controlling the treatment of the objects at all, let alone a controller that controls the treatment of the objects to optimize ambient conditions for dispensing the treatment agent from the dosing device at a predetermined time as recited by independent claim 39. Further, the EP '927 reference clearly does not teach or suggest controlling the time of dispensing of the treatment agent at all, let alone a program controller that controls the time of dispensing of the treatment agent from the dosing device during the treatment of the objects to optimize the effectiveness of the treatment agent as recited by independent claim 41.

For these and other reasons, the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by each of the independent claims 20, 23, 32, 34, 36, 39, and 41 of the present application.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 20 – 41 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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